People suffering from Goitre

1401. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report in the Times of India of 9th June, 1986 has stated that a recent UNICEF survey has revealed that about 5 crore people in the country and one crore out of them in Bihar alone are suffering from Goitre caused by deficiency of Iodine; and

(b) if so, what was the estimated number of people suffering from Goitre at the beginning and end of the 6th Plan period and also the outcome of the steps taken in that period in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The UNICEF has not conducted any survey on Goitre in India. However, UNICEF had assisted the Nutrition Foundation of India, which had studied the goitre prevalence in the country, to reprint its report.

(b) According to a very rough estimate, the number of people suffering from Goitre in Bihar at the end of the Sixth Plan period was around 88 lakhs. Corresponding and reliable estimates for the beginning of the Sixth Plan period are not available.

Iodised salt is being supplied to East and West Champaran districts from 1964. The Government of Bihar have notified 19 more districts with effect from 1st April, 1986 where sale of salt other than iodised salt is prohibited. Three private salt manufacturers have been permitted to manufacture iodised salt in Bihar to meet the requirements of the goitre-endemic areas in the State. Government have also taken a policy decision to iodise the entire edible salt in the country by 1992 in phases.

Fluorisis in the country

1402. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise names of the specific areas prone to fluorosis;

(b) the number of villages covered in each of the above States for providing safe drinking water; and

(c) the outcome of the steps taken by Government till date in so far as the fluorosis affected persons are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Certain pockets in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory of Delhi are prone to fluorosis. The areas which have been surveyed within the States are given in the enclosed statement (*see* below).

(b) In Gujarat, the Nalgonda technique for defluoridation of water is being tried in Bhesan, Veghania, Bariya and Pipalwa villages of Amreli district by the Gujarat water supply and sewage Board.

In Andhra Pradesh, 171 villages have been provided with potable water in the affected districts. In Kadiri Municipality, a defluoridation plant has been constructed using Nalgonda technique. Besides the Government is motivating the people to adopt the process of removal of fluoride in their homes.

(c) Fluorosis is a condition which cannot be reversed. The Government is making all efforts to prevent the occurrence of fluorosis by providing alternate sources of potable drinking water and using the defluoridation techniques.